



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MEMPHIS

Rudi E. Scheidt
School of Music

JOSEPH POWELL DMA RECITAL

Featuring The University of Memphis University Singers

MONDAY, NOV 24, 2025 | 1:45 PM

HARRIS HALL

Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music
Jacob Allen, Interim Director
College of Communication and Fine Arts
Deb Burns, Dean

PROGRAM

Lord, I Looked Down The Road
From Three Rhythmic Spirituals

William Grant Still (1895-1978)

Soli: Spring 2025 Teacher Residents

O nata lux de lumine

Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)

The Lady in the Water

Eric William Barnum (b. 1979)
Text by Thomas Hood, ad. Eric
William Barnum

The Music of Living

Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

TEXT + TRANSLATION

Lord, I Looked Down The Road
From Three Rhythmic Spirituals

William Grant Still (1895-1978)

Lord, I looked down the road and I wondered,
 'Twas a long way to go
Lord, I didn't think that I could ever make it,
 For it was a long way to go
Lord, I buckled on my shoes and I started,
 'Twas a long way to go.

O nata lux de lumine

Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)

O Nata Lux, de Lumine, Jesu redemptor
saeculi,
Dignare clemens supplicum, laudes
precesque summere.

O light, born of light
Jesus, redeemer of the world
Gently consider your supplicants'
Prayers and praises which they offer.

Qui carne quondam contegi, dignatus es pro
perditis,
Nos membra confer effici tui beati corporis.

You who once considered it right
To be clothed in flesh for sinners,
Grant us to be made limbs of your blessed body.

The Lady in the Water

Eric William Barnum (b. 1979)
Text by Thomas Hood, ad. Eric
William Barnum

Alas, the moon should ever beam
To show what man should never see!
I saw a maiden on a stream,
And fair was she!

I stayed to watch, a little space,
Her parted lips if she would sing;
The waters closed above her face
With many a ring

I stayed awhile, to see her throw
Her tresses back, that all beset
The fair horizon of her brow
With clouds of jet.

And still I stayed a little more:
Alas, she never comes again!
I throw my flowers from the shore
And watch in vain.

I stayed a little while to view
Her cheek, that wore in place of red
The bloom of water, tender blue,
Daintily spread.

I know my life will fade away,
I know that I must vainly pine,
For I am made of mortal clay,
But she's divine!

TEXT + TRANSLATION

The Music of Living

Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

Giver of life, Creator of all that is lovely,
Teach me to sing the words to Your song.
I want to feel the music of living.
And not fear the sad songs, but from them make new songs
Composed of both laughter and tears.
Giver of life, Creator of all that is lovely,
Teach me to dance to the sounds of Your world.
I want to move in rhythm with your plan.
Help me to follow your leading.
To risk even falling, to rise and keep trying,
For You are leading the dance.
Giver of life, Creator of all that is lovely,
Teach me to sing the words to your song.

PERSONNEL

University Singers

***denotes Section Leader*

**denotes Assistant Section Leader*

Soprano

Lauren Charves	BS Biology	Memphis, TN
Serafina Cid Ross	BM Commercial Music Performance	Memphis, TN
Lynette Davis	BM Choral Music Education & Vocal Performance	Memphis, TN
Amy Enlow	BM Choral Music Education	Memphis, TN
Edlyn Jarquin	BM Choral Music Education	Nashville, TN
Kayla Jones	BM Recording Technology	Richmond, VA
Kylee Kee	BM Choral Music Education	Bartlett, TN
Annie McGinly	BM Choral Music Education	New Orleans, LA
Raegan McNutt	BA Hospitality Industry	Collierville, TN
**April Mendiola	DMA Choral Conducting	Alhambra, CA
Ava Shatley	BM Music Business	Jonesboro, AR
Hope Tillman	BM Choral Music Education	Memphis, TN
Hannah Warta	BM Vocal Performance	Memphis, TN
*Emily Woelke	BM Choral Music Education	Memphis, TN

Alto

Alexa Bustillo	BM Music Therapy	Memphis, TN
*Sarah Enoch	BM Choral & Instrumental Music Education	Memphis, TN
Cassie Gonzalez	BM Music Therapy	Walls, TN
Mercy Hammond	BM Choral Music Education	Olive Branch, MS
Mya Hawkins	BS Health & Exercise Science	Horn Lake, MS
Brio'Na Jackson	BM Vocal Performance	Southaven, MS
Cymalia Johnson	BS Psychology	Memphis, TN
Elis Jones	DMA Composition	Lux, FL
Kaja Kelson	BM Choral Music Education	Horn Lake, MS
Hailey Morano	BM Music Business	Southaven, MS
**Isabella Palmer	BM Choral Music Education & Violin Performance	Russellville, AR
Amanda Randolph	BM Choral Music Education	Cookville, TN
Stephanie Rolfe	BM Choral Music Education	Memphis, TN
Katie Sann	BM Commercial Music Performance	Memphis, TN
Rachel Young	BS Nursing	Memphis, TN

PERSONNEL

Tenor

Calvin Barnes	BA Communication, Music Minor	Cordova, TN
Luke Brandon	BS Computer Science	Memphis, TN
Noah Canny	BA Recording Technology	Memphis, TN
Derrick Dotson	BM Choral Music Education	Memphis, TN
Bryce Goodson	BM Choral Music Education	Bartlett, TN
Ryan Cashon	BS Nursing	Coeur d'Alene, ID
Yasrah Haseeb	BM Commercial Voice Performance	Lahore, Pakistan
Cade Jett	BFA Musical Theater	Jackson, MS
Joshua Johnson	BM Commercial Music	Memphis, TN
Christian McAlister	BM Choral Music Education	Majuro, Marshall Island
*Brody Melton	BM Choral Music Education	Lakeland, TN
**Joseph Powell	DMA Choral Conducting	Mobile, AL
Recco Sargeant	BFA Musical Theater	Magnolia, AR
Terry Walker	DMA Choral Conducting	Tupelo, MS

Bass

Ethan Davis	BM Choral Music Education	Olive Branch, MS
Merritt Hanemann	BM Vocal Performance	Franklin, TN
Matthew Heathcock	BS Biology	Ypsilanti, MS
Garrett Heady	BM Choral Music Education & Music Theory/Comp.	Cordova, TN
Hezekiah Howze	BA Stage Tech and Lighting	Memphis, TN
Liam Komulainen	BA Academic Focus—Arts	Bartlett, TN
West McElhany	BM Choral Music Education	Kansas City, MO
Benjamin Nguyen	BM Choral Music Education	Cordova, TN
Alex Perez-Afanador	BM Vocal Performance	Plano, TX
Jeffrey Peters	BA History	Memphis, TN
Dylan Swinger	BM Music Business	Barlett, TN
Gregory Thomas	BA Liberal Arts Religious Studies	Memphis, TN
Liam Tubbs	BM Recording Technology	Jackson, TN
Jahmian Turner	BM Music Business	Memphis, TN
Anthony Valle	BM Vocal Performance	Miami, FL
Kalen Wilson	BM Choral Music Education	Greenwood, MS

BIOGRAPHIES

CONDUCTOR BIOGRAPHY

Joseph Powell is a conductor and tenor whose artistry bridges the sacred and secular, as well as the classroom and concert hall. A Mobile, Alabama native now based in Memphis, he is pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting with a cognate in Vocal Pedagogy at the University of Memphis. He serves as Interim Director of the Memphis Symphony Chorus and Artistic Director of Memphis ChoralArts.

Powell holds degrees in Music Education (BME) and Choral Conducting (MM) from the University of Southern Mississippi. From 2014 to 2024, he led White Station High School's choral program, where his ensembles appeared at the TMEA Professional Development Conference (2015, 2018) and the National A Cappella Convention, with DoReHe earning High School Championship Finalist recognition in 2018.

His leadership has earned him national and local honors, including the CMA Foundation's Music Teachers of Excellence Award (2022), the Orpheum High School Musical Theatre Awards' Inspiring Teacher Award (2024), and St. Paul's Episcopal School's 2025 Distinguished Alumni in the Arts Award. His students' musical theater productions won the Best Student Orchestra award in 2019, and he has been nominated twice for Shelby County Schools' Teacher of the Year.

An active performer, Powell appears regularly with Memphis Chamber Choir, Opera Memphis, and, before he was appointed director, the Memphis Symphony Chorus. He serves as Handbell Choir Director and staff singer at Calvary Episcopal Church.

BIOGRAPHIES

FACULTY CONDUCTOR BIOGRAPHY

Francis Cathlina, D.M.A. (he/him) is a Vietnamese-American conductor and educator, renowned for his innovative approach to choral music. His concerts invite audiences into a world where choral artistry becomes a powerful storytelling medium.

Dr. Cathlina is currently the Director of Choral Activities at the University of Memphis, where he received the 2025 Dean's Award for Creative Achievement. He oversees the Choral Area, leads the MM/DMA Choral Conducting program, and conducts the University Singers.

A two-time GRAMMY-nominated educator, Dr. Cathlina draws deeply from his Eastern heritage. His work reflects a commitment to excellence and collaboration. In 2025, he will serve on the conducting faculty for Brazil's XV FIMUS Festival and work in the Philippines as part of ACDA's International Conductors Exchange Program. Early recognition came from the Texas Choral Directors Association (TCDA), which named him a "Young Director of Distinction."

Cathlina's teaching philosophy centers on developing masterful technicians, expressive communicators, and thoughtful citizens. Under his direction, the UofM University Singers have been invited to perform for national conferences. His students lead prominent programs—as university DCAs and symphony chorus directors. Recent/upcoming engagements include All-State and honor choirs nationwide, the International Mu Phi Convention Chorus, and a Carnegie Hall debut. Of all these, conducting honor choirs remains his most cherished creative work.

An authority on vocal pedagogy, Dr. Cathlina's research focuses on choral tone and conducting gesture. He has presented over 71 sessions worldwide. He is published in international journals. In 2025, he served as the Headliner for the Ohio and Alabama choral conferences. In 2023, he co-led Conducting Masterclasses in Greece with the University of Macedonia (Thessaloniki) and Ionian University (Corfu).

Dr. Cathlina earned a DMA in conducting with a vocal pedagogy cognate from the University of North Texas, an MM from Michigan State University, and a BME from Baylor University. Before his doctorate, he taught in Texas public schools. Beyond the podium, Dr. Cathlina is a UDRIPPIN-sponsored pickleball athlete/coach. He, his husband Kyle, and their dog Coco call Memphis, Tennessee, their home.

In concert, Cathlina wears an áo dài, traditional Vietnamese formalwear. As one of the few Vietnamese conductors in the field, he proudly dons it as a tribute to his heritage.
www.franciscathlina.com

BIOGRAPHIES

FACULTY CONDUCTOR BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Emily Frizzell, conductor and mezzo-soprano, is an Assistant Professor of Music Education at the University of Memphis and Director of the Memphis Youth Chorale. At UofM, Dr. Frizzell teaches undergraduate and graduate music education courses, supervises music residents, and directs Tigerchor Tenor/Bass Choir. Additionally, she serves as the faculty sponsor for UofM [blu] a cappella and the UofM student chapter of the American Choral Directors Association. Dr. Frizzell is an active presenter, adjudicator, clinician and researcher, with writings published in PLOS One and GIA Publications.

Before her time at UofM, Dr. Frizzell worked as Director of Choirs at White Station Middle School for seven years. Before White Station, she was the Assistant Director of Choirs at Southaven High School and Southaven Middle School. She served as WTVMEA Junior High Choral Festival Co-Chair from 2013-2016. She also served as the Memphis City Schools Teacher Field Test Group and Development Team member, which developed the pilot portfolio evaluation method for Tennessee music teachers in 2012. Dr. Frizzell was also a Peer Evaluator of this portfolio evaluation method and a curriculum writer for Shelby County Schools. In 2013, she was awarded the Outstanding Young Music Educator award by the Tennessee Music Education Association. Her choir, the WSMS Chorale, was selected to perform at the 2013 NAFME conference in Nashville, TN and the 2014 TMEA conference in Memphis, TN. Additionally, she served on the Tennessee Department of Education Music Standards Writing Team in 2016.

Dr. Frizzell is an active member of the West Tennessee Vocal Music Educators Association, the National Association for Music Education, the American Choral Directors Association, the Society for Music Teacher Education, and the A Cappella Education Association. She earned a Ph.D. in Music Education from the University of Memphis and a Master's in Music Education and a Bachelor's in Music Education from the University of Southern Mississippi. She lives in Lakeland, Tennessee, with her husband, JD, their children, Henry and Elliott, Estlin, and their dog, Ari.

BIOGRAPHIES

Graduate Choral Conducting Studio

April Mendiola is a Mexican-American soprano and music educator from Southern California. Prior to moving to Memphis, she was a public school educator for nine years, teaching choral music at the high school and elementary school levels. She has received high regard for her contributions to public school choral program building and development. April earned a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from California State University, Long Beach, and a Bachelor of Arts in Choral Music Education from California State University, Fullerton. She also earned a K-12 Single-Subject Teaching Credential in Music from CSU Fullerton. An active soprano and choral artist, she performed in Southern California venues including the Pantages and Greek Theaters, Hollywood Bowl, and Walt Disney Concert Hall. She has performed as a chorus member with artists and composers including Andrea Bocelli, Andy Williams, M83, John Williams, A.R. Rahman, and Eric Whitacre. April is pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting with a Cognate in Vocal Pedagogy at the University of Memphis. She currently serves as the Assistant Director of Music Ministry at St. Louis Catholic Church in Memphis, TN. She lives in Memphis with her two wonderful rescue dogs, Carl and Stella Maris.

Terry Walker is pursuing a DMA in Choral Conducting at the University of Memphis. He earned a bachelor's degree in music education and master's degree in Choral Conducting, both from the University of Southern Mississippi. He serves as the conductor of the University of Memphis Collegiate Choir. Additionally, he conducted Mazi and has been the assistant conductor of the University Singers. He served as the Director of Choral Activities at Long Beach High School in Long Beach, MS, and assistant director at Warren Central High School in Vicksburg, MS. Career accomplishments include an acclaimed tour of Italy, State Convention performances in MS and LA, Masterwork performances, and over 150 performance invitations across the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Mr. Walker attended master classes by renowned artists such as the New York Voices, Mack Wilberg, Jerry Blackstone, Andre Thomas, and Arvo Pärt. He served as Chancel Choir Director at Highland Heights Presbyterian Church in Cordova, TN from 2023-2025. An active member of ACDA and NAFMe, Mr. Walker served as MSMEA District VIII chair. Mr. Walker has also served as Male Voices Repertoire and Resources and is currently Past-President of the Mississippi chapter of the American Choral Directors Association. He lives in Southaven, MS with his wife Angelique, and their children, Terry III, and Adelaide.

BIOGRAPHIES

CHORAL AREA COLLABORATIVE PIANISTS BIOGRAPHIES

Amy Nguyen currently serves as the collaborative artist for the University of Memphis Choral Arts Department. She regularly performs with students, faculty, and guest artists at the University of Memphis. She works throughout the Mid-South, performing at area high schools, colleges, and churches. Nguyen has performed throughout the country, including performances with the Independence Symphony, the Kansas City Symphony, and the Memphis Symphony Orchestra. She has played for the West TN Youth Chorus and the Collegiate School of Memphis.

Nguyen started her piano studies at the age of five. She earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree with Honors from Graceland University where she studied with Charles Schmidt. Under the tutelage of Richard Smith, she earned a Master of Music Degree from Central Missouri State University. She also studied with Betty Mallard at the University of Texas at Austin.

Grace Gasperich is a collaborative pianist who recently moved to Memphis from South Dakota. After graduating with her master's, she decided to seek adventure and opportunity in the south. Over the past decade, Grace has had the privilege to perform with ensembles as well as in over twenty musical productions. Her dream of pursuing music has led her here, and she is wholeheartedly grateful to have been asked to collaborate with Mazi.

Diego Parra, a native of Dallas Texas, began playing the piano at the age of 8. He continued private piano study for four years and then studied at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. Recently, Diego graduated from the University of Memphis with a bachelor's degree in Piano Performance. While in school, he was a member of the Honors College and performed with various ensembles. As a winner of the 2021 University of Memphis Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music Concerto Competition, he performed a movement of Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 2 with the Symphony Orchestra. He currently serves as the Music Director at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Memphis, TN.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special Thanks to:

Choral Area Faculty

Dr. Francis Cathlina - Director of Choral Activities, Assistant Professor of Music

Dr. Emily Frizzell - Assistant Professor of Choral Music Education

Graduate Choral Conducting Studio

April Mendiola - DMA Choral Conducting

Joseph Powell - DMA Choral Conducting

Terry Walker - DMA Choral Conducting

Vocal Arts Faculty

Matthew Burns - Assistant Professor of Voice

Josaphat Contreras - Visiting Assistant Professor of Voice

Dr. Megan Grey - Visiting Assistant Professor of Voice

Dr. Stephen Karr - Opera Music Director

Benjamin Smith - Opera Stage Director

Mary Wilson - Professor of Voice

College & School of Music Administration

Dr. Debra Burns – Dean

Dr. Jacob Allen – Interim Director

Dr. Albert Nguyen - Director of Bands & Conducting Area Chair

Corinthian Scott - Marketing & Communications Officer

Brianne Miller - Business Officer

Kaleb Ritchie - Operations Manager

Caleb Pepperman - Scheduling & Event Coordinator

Kim Marston - Administrative Associate to the Director

Finally, THANK YOU to all the former Music Educators, parents, family, and friends who have invested in these musicians' lives.

SAVE THE DATE

UPCOMING CHORAL AREA EVENTS

FALL 2025

**University Singers' Recital with
Joseph Powell (Assistant Conductor)**

Monday, November 24, 2025

Harris Hall

1:45 PM

SPRING 2026

**UofM Honor Choir featuring the
UofM University Singers**

Friday, January 30, 2026

SFPAC Plough Hall

7:00 PM

University Singers' Southern ACDA Preview

Concert: 5 Love Languages

featuring Cordova HS

Friday, February 27, 2026

SFPAC Plough Hall

7:00 PM

University Singers Southern ACDA Performance

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Location TBD

11:15 AM

Tigerchor Concert

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

SFPAC Plough Hall

7:00 PM

**University Singers' Masterworks Concert with
UofM Symphony Orchestra**

Monday, April 20, 2026

SFPAC Plough Hall

7:00 PM

Mazi & Collegiate Choir Concert

Thursday, April 23, 2026

Harris Hall

7:00 PM